

MINUTES

AMARILLO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

The Policy Committee for the Amarillo Metropolitan Planning Organization met at 1:30 p.m., July 26th, 2021, in the Simms Building 808 S. Buchanan Room 275.

Voting members present were: Christy Dyer, Dan Reese (for Joe Price) Jared Miller, Ginger Nelson, Clint Harms (for Kit Black) Blair Johnson, and Kyle Ingham

Non Members present were: Leslie Schmidt, Sonja Gross,

Staff coordinators were: Travis Muno, Cody Balzen, and Devin Jones

Item 1. Open Forum, time reserved for anyone to speak on any transportation related item, however, no action can be taken on items not on the agenda.

Item 2. Discuss and Consider Approval of the April 15, 2021 meeting minutes.
Kyle Ingham moved to approve as written. Dan Reese Seconded. No oppose passes 6-0

Item 3. Discuss and Consider Revisions to the FY 21 Unified Planning Work Program.

Travis explained that the Unified Planning Work Program is the yearly document showing our planning fund billing. He explained that there have been several things that have happened to need money moved into different tasks. He explained that many tasks were not as necessary this year for updates, but there was more of a need in the Administration costs, to help address new projects like updating our Public Participation Plan. He explained that it is not a request for more funds, simply a reallocation of funds.

Kyle Ingham asked if the money being moved was for a contractual relationship with TTI. Travis explained that TxDOT is paying for that contract, it's just for projects that have been identified through this process. Kyle verified that money was staying in house. Travis affirmed that yes that money would stay in house for MPO planning projects.

Kyle Ingham moved for it to be approved, Christy Dyer seconded. It was approved 6-0.

Ginger Nelson called to attention some worksheets with things that would be seen at every meeting to keep members aware of what is important and larger pictures to help keep the Policy Board in an MPO mindset.

Item 4. Discuss and Consider FY 22 Unified Planning Work Program

Travis went over the funding costs for the FY 22 year and explained that there was just over \$100,000 in carryover that would catch any indirect cost swings.

Christy Dyer moved approve. Blair Johnson seconded. It was approved 6-0

Item 5. Discuss and Consider Adoption of the Multimodal Plan

(See recording for further notes)

Travis started off thanking each of the entities for their quick, efficient attention to the document and their input to help getting the Plan as accurate as possible.

Jeff brought a short presentation for all three documents to share with the Policy Board.

The Vision and Goals for this document was Connectivity, Safety, Bicycle and Pedestrian, Transit

The project timeline was kicked off in April 2020 with the first Oversight Committee meetings. There were seven oversight committee meetings with wonderful attendance. In August was In field Data collection, and in October

The Community Engagement was utilized through Social Pinpoint Surveys, and Open House Events. Ginger asked if this information was in the document itself, Jeff explained yes it was and where to find it in the document.

Jeff went over the chapter list and explained that he was going to really touch on the Implementation Chapter to give the board the best overview of the document that he could.

Kyle Ingham asked about the data and the correlation between new sidewalks and bicycle crashes in Amarillo vs. Canyon. Jeff explained that it was a need vs Kyle stated that it was good work and consistent all the way through.

Mark Benton asked about Russel Long Boulevard and if the new bike lanes data was a part of the document. Jeff explained that due to COVID it was difficult to gather data further than through interviewees.

Ginger asked for Kyle and Travis to speak on how changes happen in our cities based on this document. Kyle explained that they looked at the document as an umbrella for future projects within the area. Kyle also explained that this was something he's personally been wanting for a long time and with all the players there it was good to have a regional discussion. Kyle also mentioned that with the thoroughfare plan, it was a good starting point for the entities to update their specific thoroughfare plans. He also mentioned the Bike and Pedestrian toolbox being a very good reference for future projects and detail oriented within each of the players, but it gives a good overarching plan to spring board off of.

Ginger asked how they could speak to the public about this plan, and if this money came from the CIP budget. Travis explained that some of these things have already been addressed but rather it gives each entity a place to focus on in their more detailed areas. Kyle explained that they were good examples for coordinated activities and leaves the capital planning up to each entity. Including funding from the MPO but it's not solely on the MPO, its something all the entities have to work on together.

Kyle Ingham asked if this was something you'd see in regional plans,

Blair Johnson said that as an MPO we need to continue to work together as a body and with the TAC to have some guidance to go towards. He said he knew this was a guidance document, and we just needed to take the next step in working towards a priority. Ginger asked if this was something that we could put on the agenda for this to prioritize these projects. Travis explained with this new funding and this process will be developed within the next year since it needs to be done before the Amarillo MPO becomes a TMA.

Jared asked about the section of I-27 between Amarillo and Canyon, and when it would be worked. According to Blair it is currently set in 2025 due to fiscal restraints on the TIP.

Kyle Schniderjan

Jared Miller

Kyle Ingham requested to continue moving forward with the current momentum. Ginger stated she wants to see progress made but she wants to work towards making this plan a reality.

Ginger asked for a Future Agenda Item to be that the MPO look at writing grants for regional project grant projects. Travis will be doing research for grant information.

Jared Miller moved to approve, Christy Dyer seconded. Approved 8-0

Item 6. Discuss and Consider revisions to the 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Plan

Travis reminded the Policy Board that this was our short range plan. Travis explained that this document has not been approved yet, so these revisions would take place as soon as the current TIP is approved. Travis showed where the funding was being requested to be moved. However Transit applied for a grant they did not receive, so this movement would help keep the projects going forward.

Kyle verified that this was just transit dollars not road dollars. Christy Dyers asked if this was being funded through CARES. Marita explained that the facility was funded through 503, and CARES funding goes towards Transit vehicles and Operating Expenses.

Jared Miller moved to approve. Mark Benton seconded. The motion passes 8-0

Item 7. Update on Construction Projects

Corky Neukem gave the project update to the board.

B1 Phase 1 – Replaced two bridges at Hollywood, and about to build two bridges at Coulter. It is about 80% complete, was due to be completed in October but due to poor weather, it's due to be completed by next Summer.

B1 Phase 2 “The Connector Project” - Takes Soncy over 2590 to the frontage roads of SL335. This is about 20% complete. Mark Benton asked if Hollywood became the south side frontage road.

B2 Phase 1 SL 335 Frontage roads from 2590 to IH-40 - This is about 70% complete, and they are building for major intersections.

B2 Phase 2 SL 335 Frontage Roads from IH 40 to SW 9th Ave “Tie In Project” – This project is about 50% complete.

Corky stated that he is looking forward to the tour this afternoon.

Item 8. Discuss Future Agenda Items.

- The process for selecting projects for a regionally important project list based on the thoroughfare.
- Travis doing research on whether the MPO can write grant applications for regionally important projects identified within the Multi Modal Plan.
- Field trip to construction sites
- List of priority Project
- Update on becoming a TMA

Item 9. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned with no further business to discuss.

Ginger Nelson, Chairman

Amarillo MPO